THE CLAIMS

1-28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring a consignment of goods, the method comprising:

continuously or at predetermined intervals measuring a parameter of the consignment using a disposable sender device attached to the consignment;

continuously or at predetermined intervals transmitting a signal containing data representative of the measured parameter to a database, the data comprising time-indicative data associated with the measured parameter, the database comprising a set-point value associated with the consignment for the measured parameter;

comparing the measured parameter with the associated set-point value; and

if the measured parameter is not within a range specified, at least in part, by the set-point value, then initiating an intervention.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 29 wherein the parameter is a temperature of the consignment.

32.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 29, further comprising:

communicating the data to an intermediate sender device provided at a location of the consignment; and

transmitting the data from the intermediate sender device to the database.

33.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 29, further comprising:

determining a location of the consignment; and

including data representative of the determined location in the data transmitted to the database.

34.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 29, further comprising:

storing the data in a storage means before transmission to the database.

35.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 34 wherein the storage means is provided in an intermediate sender device.

36.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 29, further comprising:

        initializing the database to include consignment data wherein the consignment data include dispatch and product data.

37.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 29, further comprising:

        providing secure communication access to the database to enable monitoring by enabled users of data available in the database wherein the secure communication access is provided via an Internet.

38.   (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring a consignment of goods, the system comprising:

        a sender device attached to the consignment and comprising a measuring device for continuously or at predetermined intervals measuring a parameter of the consignment;

        a transmitter for continuously or at predetermined intervals transmitting a signal containing data representative of the measured parameter to a database, the data comprising time-indicative data associated with the measured parameter;

        the database, the database comprising a set-point value associated with the consignment for the measured parameter;

        a comparator for comparing the measured parameter with the associated set-point value; and

        an initiator for initiating an intervention if the measured parameter is not within a range specified, at least in part, by the set-point value.

39.   (Canceled)

40.   (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 38 wherein the parameter is a temperature of the consignment.

41. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 38 wherein the sender device comprises the transmitter,

    wherein the transmitter communicates the data to an intermediate sender device, and

    wherein the system further comprises the intermediate sender device, the intermediate sender device comprising a second transmitter for transmitting the data to the database.

42. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 41, further comprising:

    a location finder for determining a location of the consignment, and

    wherein the data transmitted to the database comprise data representative of the determined location.

43. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 42 wherein the location finder comprises a global positioning system.

44. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 42 wherein the intermediate sender device comprises the location finder.

45. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 41, further comprising a data store for storing the data before transmission to the database.

46. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 45 wherein the intermediate sender device comprises the data store.

47. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 38 wherein the sender device is disposable and battery powered.

48. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 41 wherein the sender device is disposable and inductively powered from the intermediate sender device.

49. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 38 wherein the database comprises consignment data, and

    wherein the consignment data comprise dispatch and product data.

50.   (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring according to claim 38, further
        comprising secure communication access to the database to enable monitoring by
        enabled users of data available in the database wherein the secure communication
        access is provided via an Internet.

51.   (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring according to claim 29 wherein initiating
        an intervention comprises recalling the consignment.

52.   (Canceled)

53.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable
        instructions for performing a method of monitoring a consignment of goods, the
        method comprising:
                continuously or at predetermined intervals measuring a parameter of the
        consignment using a disposable sender device attached to the consignment;
                continuously or at predetermined intervals transmitting a signal containing
        data representative of the measured parameter to a database, the data comprising time-
        indicative data associated with the measured parameter, the database comprising a set-
        point value associated with the consignment for the measured parameter;
                comparing the measured parameter with the associated set-point value; and
                if the measured parameter is not within a range specified, at least in part, by
        the set-point value, then initiating an intervention.